

Holy Family Catholic School

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities School Information Report

HOW WE SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES (SEND)

Our Mission Statement permeates all we do at Holy Family:

'The Holy Family Catholic School is a Catholic community embracing the clear Christian values of respect, service and justice. We are a family of many cultures sharing one faith. We exist to educate young people towards excellence in all dimensions of their lives, recognizing the uniqueness of each and the equality of all.'

Holy Family Catholic School is committed to meeting the needs of those students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) so far as is reasonably practicable and compatible with the provision of the efficient education of other students. Holy Family Catholic School has due regard to the SEN Code of Practice 2014 and the Disability Discrimination Act 2001.

Type of school we are:

Holy Family Catholic School is an 11-18, comprehensive, co-educational, voluntary aided school. Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are, of course, welcome to apply to become part of our community. (See website for more detailed information on admissions.)

Our Ofsted rating in 2014: **Good**

"Disabled pupils and those with special educational needs make good progress and achieve well as a result of careful care in identifying their needs and providing appropriate individual support. This can include periods of time receiving highly focused support away from their classrooms in a 'nurture' type classroom with a specialist teacher, with intensive work on a one-to-one basis" (OFSTED 2014).

The kinds of SEND that we provide for

The 2014 SEND code of practice outlines four areas of special educational need that include a range of difficulties and conditions

1. Communication and interaction
2. Cognition and learning
3. Social, emotional and mental health
4. Sensory and/or physical

How we know if a student has special educational needs:

- Records from previous schools as students transfer to us.
- Our Transition Coordinator and other members of Holy Family staff spend a significant amount of time visiting our feeder primary schools to collate transition reports that make sure that Special Educational Needs and Disabilities issues are picked up by the SENCO and other key staff.
- The Learning Support department conduct a reading age test for all prospective year 7 students during their transition day in July.
- Staff at Holy Family can do a referral to the Learning Support Department at any time if they are concerned about a student. The Learning Support department will then investigate the issue further.
- The SENCO monitors students' progress by dropping into lessons.
- Termly reports can highlight issues to do with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- Staff can also email Year Leaders with concerns about students which can then be sent to the SENCO for further investigation.

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- Parents can email the relevant Year Leader and/or SENCO to raise a concern about a possible issue to do with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

What we do to help students with special educational needs

- The Holy Family Catholic School SEND register highlights to staff the key issues relating to students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- Information on all students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities is produced by the Learning Support department and is shared with staff.
- Subject teachers are responsible for the progress of all students in their classroom. They must personalise the learning for the student with a Special Educational Need and/or Disability according to the information provided by the Learning Support department.
- Students who are in Local Authority Care who also have a Statement or EHC have a Personal Education Plan (PEP), produced by the Learning Support department which staff read (in fact all LAC will have a PEP). This has the student's view on it as well as the parent/carer.
- The quality of teaching is monitored by the SENCO, Curriculum Leaders and the Senior Leadership team. (SLT)
- There is help available in the classroom from 'Learning Support Assistants' (LSAs). They are guided, in advance of the lesson, by the specialist subject teacher as to how they can help the student(s) concerned.
- Some students are withdrawn from the classroom for specialist support.
- There are two *Small Teaching Groups* in year 7 in which students receive additional support, while accessing the full curriculum.
- The SENCO will liaise with external specialist agencies to get advice on a particular Special Educational Need and/or Disability issue. This advice is then passed to the subject specialist staff to allow them to personalise the learning of that student.
- Learning mentors (and other types of mentor) are assigned to specific students to help them in coping with life at secondary school.
- Small groups run, when needed, to help students to develop their social skills and manage their emotions, e.g. 'Carefree Kids' deliver art and play therapy and counselling.
- Outside school hours, literacy, numeracy and homework clubs take place for students with SEND (although they are also popular with other students too).

How we decide what resources we can give to a student with special educational needs

- SLT works with the SENCO to allocate resources for students with SEND. This will include for example, LSA time, equipment and aids, specialist services and staff training.
- Students who have Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC) have allocated resources which are used for that student. The SENCO will discuss the allocation of these resources with the family and student concerned.
- If several students have been referred to the Learning Support Department then they are discussed at a Learning Support Departmental meeting and put in rank order based on the level of need from the evidence provided. This evidence will include progress data, reports, comments from all the subject teachers of that student and lesson observations made by the Learning Support Department.
- The SENCO will then decide who to progress to specialist services such as the Educational Psychologist or who will receive LSA help in class. Subject teachers will also get feedback and advice about the student concerned.

How we check that a student is making progress and how we keep parents informed

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- Responsibility for the progress of students with SEND lies with the subject specialist teacher who will track progress and give feedback in accordance with departmental and school policy.
- The progress of all SEND students is considered alongside all other students when each Curriculum Leader meets with their SLT line manager.
- Parents receive a half-termly report and there is an annual parents evening for each year group.
- If a student is added to the SEND register, parents/carers will be informed in writing and will be invited to meet with the SENCO.
- If a student has a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an EHC, then there will be a termly review meeting.
- Review meetings will take place annually, in school.
- Parents are welcome to email the school at any time if they have concerns about the progress of their child. It is important that any email includes the relevant Form Tutor, Year Leader and the SENCO.
- The student journal is also a way that staff will keep parents informed about student progress.
- There will also be additional meetings about individual students as required.
- The SENCO runs a weekly surgery.

Support we offer for students' health and general wellbeing

- The Form Tutor and the relevant Year Leader will be looking after your child on a day to day basis. Students are encouraged to talk to them if they are worried about anything, no matter how small.
- The school's PSD curriculum has modules which focus on safety, well-being, e-safety and how to report issues confidentially
- Year Leaders meet with the Assistant Head Teacher every fortnight or more often if needed, to discuss the year group as a whole as well as individuals.
- All staff are made aware of a student's vulnerability via confidential correspondence which enable all staff to know, care, support and guide students appropriately.
- The Learning Support department and the SENCO are also available for students to talk to if they are worried about an issue.
- If a student has a specific medical need then a Care Plan will be written in conjunction with our link School Nurse.
- The Safeguarding Officer, Student Behaviour and Welfare Officer and learning mentors form part of our Child Protection Team. This team supports students experiencing all manner of difficulties.
- The school follows statutory guidance from the DfE in supporting students with medical conditions.
- The school employs counsellors through Carefree Kids. There are also trained Sixth Form Mentors who work very successfully with younger students who are experiencing personal issues.
- The Educational Psychologist also works with specific students to help them make better progress and to give strategies on how they could moderate their behaviour.
- There is a strong student voice in the school through the School Council. This has representatives from all the year groups. Comments and suggestions are discussed by SLT.
- Mental Health has been a priority at Holy Family for many years. We work very closely with the local CAMHS provider.

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Specialist external services we use when we think extra help is needed

We have a range of external services that we call upon to support our students:

- Advisory Service for Autism (ASA) provided by Whitefields School
- Speech and Language service in the Local Authority
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health service (CAMHS)
- Educational Psychology service for assessment and intervention
- Hearing Impaired service
- Visually Impaired service
- School Nurse
- Education Welfare Officer
- Carefree Kids
- NASEN (National Association of Special Educational Needs)
- Social Services
- LBWF SEN services.
- LBWF Children's' services
- Other London Boroughs' Children's' Services and Social Care departments
- SEND Success (mainly for Dyslexia and ASD)

The training our staff have had or are getting

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Statutory training for new SENCOs (through the IoE)
- Access arrangements
- Local training provided by Whitefield Special School

How we include students with SEND in activities and school trips

- Safety is considered at all times. Risk assessments are completed prior to all trips.
- We have an inclusive policy at Holy Family Catholic School and we think it is of absolute importance that all of our students are able to access all of the activities and trips our school offers.
- The school provides additional support for SEND students, if required for a trip or activity.
- A list of all student participants in a trip is sent to the Head of Site to consider what detailed risk assessment needs to occur in order to support them.

Our school environment

- Most of the Walthamstow House site is wheelchair accessible via a lift. New buildings (to be completed by September 2017) will be fully wheelchair accessible. Timetable adjustments will always be made to enable access for disabled students.
- The ground floor of the Wiseman House site is wheelchair accessible. There are currently two lifts. Imminent building works include new wheelchair access and lifts. Timetable adjustments will always be made to enable access for disabled students.

How we prepare for students joining our school and leaving our school

- Parents/carers can speak to the SENCO at the Open Evenings in the autumn of Year 6 (or at any other time by appointment).
- Records from previous schools as students transfer to us in year 7 (or at other times)
- Through the detailed work carried out by the Transition Coordinator and SENCO, including visiting particular students with SEND in their primary schools.

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- Students with SEND and parents/carers are invited into school during the summer term, to meet with a member of the Learning Support department. This helps us to build up picture of the student concerned and how they like to learn.
- Students with SEND are offered extra visits to the school in order they become familiar with the building and key staff.
- Holy Family Catholic School has many strong links with further and higher education providers. Students with SEND will receive careful guidance and support on how to access the most appropriate provision at these stages of their education. Holy Family staff will support SEND students through all stages of transition beyond school.

How parents are involved in school life

- Parents are encouraged to email/contact the school if they have any concerns or questions.
- Key information about the school is available on the school's website.
- Parents help the Learning Support team to update PEPs and Statements/EHCs on their child.
- Information evenings for parents.
- Consultation evenings for each year group.
- Meetings with external agencies.
- Parents are invited to be members of the 'Friends' association.
- Parents are able to volunteer to work in school (subject to appropriate checks)
- Governor meetings, as Parent governors.
- SEN breakfast

Who to contact for more information or to discuss a concern

- The main point of contact for your child is their Form Tutor in the first instance and for more serious concerns, the Year Leader for that year group. The best email address on which to make contact with the school is; office@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk. Information can then be forwarded to relevant staff.
- The contact details for the SENCO are:
Ms A. Schmidt, a.schmidt@holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk tel: 020 8520 0482
- The school's complaints procedure may be followed (details on the school website)

If a parent wishes to seek independent, confidential and impartial advice, we recommend:

Waltham Forest SENDIASS - This is now delivered via the Citizens Advice Bureau:

CAB

220 Hoe Street

Walthamstow E17 3AY

Tel: 0300 330 1175

The Waltham Forest Local Offer is available at

<http://walthamforest.childrenservicedirectory.org.uk/kb5/walthamforest/fsd/localoffer.page>

This school Information about children with special educational needs and disabilities at Holy Family Catholic School was updated in September 2017. It will be reviewed again in September 2018.